Arkansas Valley Audubon Society  

Valley Harrier

Notes from the President: Dr. Peg Rooney  
September 2019

Due to the ‘energy dominance’ agenda of the current administration, environmental regulations are being diminished. Consequently, threats to birds, other wildlife, and their habitats are a regular occurrence. Some issues AVAS is closely watching include:

a. The BLM’s Eastern Colorado Resource Management Plan which will reduce protections for wilderness lands
b. The push to encourage the State Land Board to limit oil/gas leasing, and increase leasing for renewables
c. The US Forest Services’ plan to limit public input into decisions about forest operations
d. Proposed oil/gas leasing on Greater Sage Grouse habitat in North Park
e. Request by Ft. Carson for a right-of-way on BLM land for Black Hawk/Apache/Chinook helicopter landings in Fremont County in pristine wilderness areas with abundant wildlife
f. The proposed expansion an already large quarry onto 700 acres of public land in Big Horn Sheep Canyon Fremont County
g. The future of Chico Basin Ranch, an important birding spot in Pueblo and El Paso counties

Mark your calendars for our community programs held at 11 am at Rawlings Library:
9/16/19 Owls of Colorado by John Rawinski
11/16/19 Presentation by Colorado Parks and Wildlife’s Bob Holder
2/15/20 Raptor Id by Debbie Barnes
4/10/20 Duck Id by Clif and Pearle Smith
AVAS received a grant to establish three native plant gardens for pollinators: one at the Visitors Center at Lake Pueblo, one at the Visitors Center at John Martin Reservoir State Park, and one at the Nature and Wildlife Discovery Center - River Campus. Grand openings of the gardens will be scheduled after the fall plantings. AVAS wants to thank Linda McMullin of the Colorado Native Plant Society for her help in picking the appropriate plants for the areas, Dr. Leon Bright, who translated the garden signs into Spanish, and the many volunteers who prepared the ground, planted and watered the plants, and maintain the gardens.

More than 30% of our breeding birds are already declining and are in need of conservation action. The effect of climate change on birds will become more severe in the future unless we reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and protect the natural resources birds need to survive and thrive. Be an active citizen! Get involved! Join AVAS! Help protect wildlife, and ultimately, ourselves. Membership information is at socobirds.org.

Happy Birding!